

SPEAKER MARVEL: The next bill is 784.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 784 was introduced by Senator Fowler and Senator Wesely. Read title. I have no committee amendments Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Chair recognizes Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, this bill is a good idea and it ought to be advanced. Mr. President, I should probably explain it. The bill deals with district election for the City of Lincoln for the Lincoln School Board. I think that all of us have faced district election bills often enough to have basically an idea of our philosophy or understanding. Currently in the City of Lincoln there is a system where people are nominated within districts but then elected at large. The system has been tried in one election, previous to that it was an at large system. There has been some confusion and there has been some concern that in fact this system which is a compromise has now provided adequate representation to the interests of the total community that has not solved the problems that were hoped to be solved and a move to a complete district election system would be preferable. I believe that most members of this Legislature have been visited by, probably by people on both sides of the issue in the community. I think, I would say that people on both sides are very, very sincere in their concern. It is my belief that a city the size of Lincoln, when you have a school board as small as six members that to ask someone to run at large limits the availability of candidates and I think that district elections, that the districts are certainly large enough, they would be about the size of a legislative district, they would be large enough that there would be qualified candidates but not so large as to be intimidating to people to run for office. I think that it would provide for broader representation on the Lincoln School Board. This bill should be acted on this year, in that the Lincoln School Board elections are in odd numbered years so that the next election would be next year. I would ask for your consideration in advancing this bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: There is a motion on the desk. The Clerk will read the motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler moves to indefinitely postpone 784.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this is a very hot topic in Lincoln and I hope for the sake of the people in Lincoln that you will all listen very closely to the arguments on both sides, because it will have